

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response the Office Action dated September 8, 2004.
Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-28 are currently pending in this application, with claim 14 being independent.
No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

While not conceding the propriety of these rejections, and in order to further the prosecution of the application, claims 7, 9 and 11-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter, rendering the rejection moot as to these claims. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

Newly added claim 14 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of:

a sheet-type switch portion having a first sheet, a second sheet, a first electrode, and a second electrode, said first and second electrodes being between said first sheet and said second sheet, said first electrode being structurally adapted to come into electrical contact with said second electrode; and

a reversible chromatic layer having at least two coatings, each of said at least two coatings being structurally adapted to exhibit thermochromism, said first sheet being between said reversible chromatic layer and said first electrode.

WO 94/14112 to Itoh et al. (Itoh) arguably teaches a data input device having a color-change layer 50 (Itoh at figure 1). However, Itoh fails to disclose, teach or suggest first and second electrodes between a first sheet and a second sheet.

In addition, Itoh fails to disclose, teach or suggest a first electrode structurally adapted to come into electrical contact with a second electrode. Instead, Itoh teaches the absence of a direct electrical contact between the upper conductive layer 1 and the resistive layer 2 (Itoh at page 10, lines 25-27).

The Office Action also admits that Itoh fails to disclose, teach or suggest a reversible chromatic layer having at least two coatings (Office Action at page 3)

For the features deficient within Itoh, the Office Action provides U.S. Patent No. 4,554,565 to Kito et al. (Kito), which arguably teaches a reversible thermochromic display. Kito arguably teaches a support 1, a nonthermochromic image layer 2, a first reversible thermochromic image layer 3-1 and a second reversible thermochromic image layer 4-1 and 4-2 (Kito at figure 6, column 2, lines 38-44).

Like Itoh, Kito fails to disclose, teach or suggest first and second electrodes between a first sheet and a second sheet.

Also like Itoh, Kito fails to disclose, teach or suggest a first electrode structurally adapted to come into electrical contact with a second electrode.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

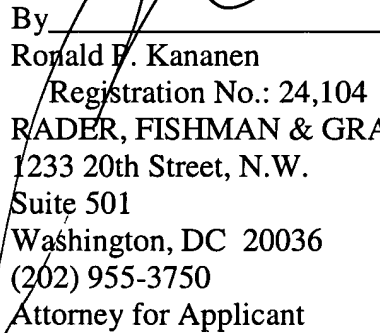
For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753 or the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

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Respectfully submitted,

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